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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHARLTON KINGS

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

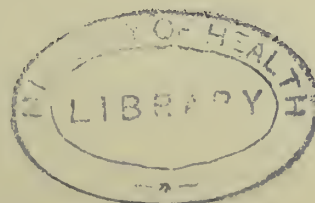
STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., B.S. (Lond), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

W.L. BOOY, A.I.A.S.
Corporate Surveyor
Certified Sanitary Inspector

Pests Officer

L.H. SILVEY





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To the Chairman & Members of
CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr.Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District.

Included in the Report is a section by Mr.W.L.Booy, the Council's Sanitary Inspector, on his work during the year.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population, 6020 shows an increase of 126 on the previous year.

There were 77 births in the District, making the crude Birth Rate 12.8 live births for 1000 of the population, as compared with the current rate 15.2 for England and Wales, and with 13.1 for 1953.

Owing to the high proportion of elderly people in the District, the Corrected Birth Rate, 14.7 births per 1000 of the population, should be used for purposes of comparison. So that this adjusted figure can be obtained the Registrar General supplies an Area Comparability Factor (Births) 1.15 for the District, by which the crude rate should be multiplied.

Eighty two people died, 10 more than in 1953, thus the Death Rate is 13.6 per 1000 of the population. Here again for the reasons stated above, the Corrected Death Rate 10.1 should be calculated.

As was the case last year only one infant under one year of age died during the year, giving a favourable infantile mortality, at the rate of 13 deaths per 1000 live births, as compared with the record low figure of 25.5 for England and Wales as a whole.

It will be seen in the table setting out the notifications of infectious diseases, that there was an epidemic of measles during the year, 117 cases being notified. This disease has a biennial incidence, there being sufficient immunes in the year after an epidemic to prevent an outbreak. No deaths occurred.

Two cases of poliomyelitis were confirmed and both made a good recovery.

My sincere thanks are due to the Staff for their help, and to Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration.

I am, Mr.Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
STEPHEN KNIGHT,
Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955.

CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,399
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	6,020
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1954)	1,982
Rateable Value (at 31.3.1955)	£47,741
Sum represented by a penny rate	£198

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	74	28	46
Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>77</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>48</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	12.8		
Area Comparability Factor (Births) ...	1.15		
Corrected Birth Rate (12.8 x 1.15) ...	14.7		

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	-	-	-

DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	82	36	46
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...	13.6		
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) ...	.74		
Corrected Death Rate (12.8 x 0.74) ...	10.1		

NO. 30. DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION NIL

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE
(Infantile Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

All infants per 1,000 Live Births ...13.0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE
(Neonatal Mortality)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...13.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	-	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	14
18. Coronary disease, angina	6	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
20. Other heart disease	2	15
21. Other circulatory disease	-	1
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	1
24. Bronchitis	-	1
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	4	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	1	-
35. Suicide	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

All causes

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BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Birth Rate(per 1,000 pop ⁿ .)	13.7	10.9	14.4	13.1	12.8
Death Rate " " "	15.6	16.9	13.6	12.2	13.6
Infantile Mortality Rate(per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 year)	24.1	63.0	35.0	13.0	13.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate(per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 month)	12.0	47.0	35.	13.0	13.0

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH & INFANTILE
MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND & WALES, ETC.
ARE GIVEN BELOW

	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>160 C.Bs.</u> <u>& Great</u> <u>Towns</u>	<u>County</u> <u>of</u> <u>Glos.</u>	<u>CHARLTON</u> <u>KINGS</u> <u>U.D.</u>
Live Births	15.2	16.8	15.8	12.8
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.36	0.4		
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	25.5	29.02	24.6	13.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	17.7		16.3	13.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.3	12.02	11.2	13.6

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Infectious Diseases Notified during 1954
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under</u> <u>1 Yr.</u> <u>M. F.</u>		<u>1-5</u> <u>m.F.</u>	<u>5-15</u> <u>M. F.</u>	<u>15-25</u> <u>M. F.</u>	<u>25 and</u> <u>upwards</u> <u>M. F.</u>		<u>Total</u> <u>M. F.</u>	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1 -	1 1	- -	-	-	2	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	2 3	6 2	- -	-	-	9	5
Measles	-	1	19.24.	41.33.	-	-	-	60.	58.
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	1 -	1	1	2	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	1 -	-	-	-	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>	<u>All Persons</u>
0 - 4	5 - 14	
Respiratory		2
Meninges & C.N.S.		-
Other Forms		1

Deaths

Respiratory	-	-
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-
Other Forms	-	-

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st. December 1954, was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>C.N.S.</u>		<u>Other Forms</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>			<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Total</u>
19	14	33	-	-	3	2	5	38

Three new cases of tuberculosis came to notice, but no deaths were attributed to this cause.

Although modern treatment has brought about a great decrease in the number of patients dying from tuberculosis there has been little decrease in the number of new cases, and there is no decrease in the register of tuberculous persons, so that the risks of infection remain unchanged.

Preventive measures are essential to control the disease, contacts from cases are followed up and the Council help whenever necessary in rehousing afflicted families so that infectious patients can have bedrooms to themselves.

A Mass Radiography Unit makes regular visits to the Borough of Cheltenham, and residents of the Urban District can avail themselves of this service.

These measures of control are directed to finding actual cases, and preventing the spread of the disease from known sources of infection. A new development is the use of B.C.G. Vaccination. By this means the resistance of a susceptible person can be built up to withstand infection arising from contact with tuberculous people.

B.C.G.vaccination is now offered to 13 year old school children so that they may be protected as adolescents. Young people are particularly liable to contract tuberculosis; adolescence is a time of stress, going out to work and more likelihood of meeting people suffering from the disease.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year:

	<u>Under 1 yr</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vaccination	29	2	2	4	7	44
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	16	16

The number of persons vaccinated against smallpox continues to increase slightly, 44 persons being vaccinated as compared with 32 in the previous year. Twenty nine infants under 1 year were vaccinated making the acceptance rate for children in this group 37%.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Although immunisation was in abeyance for several months owing to the presence of cases of poliomyelitis in the locality 53 children under 15 years of age were immunised. The records show that 68% of children in this age group are immunised.

Only thirtynine babies were immunised in their first year, the object of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign is to increase this proportion to 75%. It is only by this means that we can ensure that there will be no outbreak of diphtheria.

Diphtheria Immunisation(In relation to child population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st.December 1954.

	<u>Under 1 Yr.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5 - 9.</u>	<u>10 - 14</u>
Age at 31.12.54.	'54	'53	'52	'51	'50	'49-'45	'44-'40.
i.e.born in year:							

Number Immunised: -	51	48	49	58	337	289
Total Number Immunised	832					
Estimated mid-year population-	1220					

Number of children

immunised in..1954. 1953. 1952. 1951. 1950. 1949. 1948. 1947.

Primary	53	60	58	73	50	56	98	80
Maintenance	77	53	74	42	69	85	43	9

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1948 - CLEAN FOOD

Two cases of food poisoning were notified; they were separate isolated cases.

The foodshops are inspected regularly and the traders co-operate quite readily in keeping clean premises and observing clean methods.

To obtain and maintain hygienic practices people must insist on cleanliness in the handling and preparation of food.

MILK AND DAIRIES

An Order was made by the Minister under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950, specifying areas of England in which all milk sold by retail must be "specially designated" milk, namely, "pasteurised", "sterilised", or "tuberculin tested", from 1st October 1954.

Among the areas specified was one known as Gloucester and District, which included the Urban District of Charlton Kings.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 : Removal to suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

No application was made to the Court under this Section for the removal of aged or infirm people living in insanitary circumstances and unable to devote to themselves, and not receiving from other people, proper care and attention.

Visits have been made to a number of cases of this type, but the Home Help Service was able to provide for the need of some of these lonely old people and enable them to carry on in their own homes.

The activity of the Old People's Club is particularly valuable in preventing bad conditions arising. Absentees from the meetings are visited, and help, if required, is given at an early stage when it is most useful.

The Old People's Welfare Committee is maintaining a register of old people living alone in the area.

They are visited from time to time and even though they are not members of the Club their needs ascertained, and help provided if necessary.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (telephone number Cheltenham 3112) and in emergency dialing "999" or "0" to the local exchange and asking for Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is supplemented by a hospital car service which is available for taking patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service, providing the use of public transport is not possible. Requests for this service should be made to the Control Station at Cheltenham and at least 48 hours notice must be given.

Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings - telephone number Cheltenham 55746.
District Nurse:

Nurse Clifford, "Bermalee", Little Herberts Road,
Charlton Kings. Telephone number Cheltenham 52523.

Child Welfare Centres

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Child Welfare Centre are held in the Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road, every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

Home Help Service

This Service is organised by the County Council, and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage the household duties because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings - Telephone number Cheltenham 55746.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District Council is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply was satisfactory throughout the year both in respect of quality and quantity.

During the year 59 houses were connected to the public water mains, comprising 54 new houses and 5 existing houses.

The following table gives the position with regard to the public supply. Those houses which are not supplied from the public mains are in the high parts of the District, where private piped supplies from nearby springs are available.

<u>Total</u>		(a) <u>Direct into</u> <u>house</u>	(b) <u>By</u> <u>Standpipe</u>
1982	No. of houses) supplied by (	1774	2
		public (
6020	No. of population mains (	5332	6

H O U S I N G

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The above Act, which came into operation on the 30th. August 1954, contains important new provisions for widening the scope of the Government's housing policy. The Act provides the statutory powers needed to implement the proposals contained in the White Paper (Cmd.8996) "Houses - The Next Step", published in November 1953.

Post-war housing policy has so far been mainly directed to the erection of new houses, with little attention to the condition of existing, unfit or sub-standard houses. It is now the declared intention of the Government to assist Local Authorities in carrying out their statutory responsibilities for the clearance and replacement of unfit houses, the securing of essential repairs, and the encouragement of improvements and conversions.

Until the 1954 Act came into force the only guidance given to Local Authorities for judging the fitness of houses was that, in determining whether a house was or was not fit for human habitation, regard must be had to the general standard of housing in the district and to the requirements of any local byelaws in force within the district.

Now for the first time there will be a uniform standard of fitness for habitation applicable throughout the country. Section 9, (1) of the Act reads as follows:-

"In determining for any of the purposes of the principal Act whether a house is unfit for human habitation, regard shall be had to its condition in respect of the following matters, that is to say -

- (a) Repair
- (b) stability
- (c) freedom from damp
- (d) natural lighting
- (e) ventilation
- (f) water supply
- (g) drainage and sanitary conveniences;
- (h) facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of waste water;

and the house shall be deemed to be unfit as aforesaid if and only if it is so far defective in one or more of the said matters that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation in that condition".

Actually the Act contains three standards. The one mentioned above, and generally referred to as the eight-point standard of fitness, to be used also as one of the conditions governing rent increases; a lesser standard to which condemned houses may be "patched" to render them "adequate for the time being"; and a higher twelve-point standard to which houses must be improved to qualify for improvement grant. This standard approximates to that of a new Council house.

Improvement Grants - Section 20, Housing Act 1949:
Section 16, Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

The new Act widens the scope of the provisions relating to improvement grants, making the scheme more attractive to would-be applicants. The lower limit of cost of works eligible for grant has been reduced to £100, and the upper limit of £800 has been removed, though the maximum grant allowable is still £400. The period for which a dwelling, improved by grant aid is expected to provide satisfactory accommodation has been reduced from 30 years to 15 years. Local authorities are now empowered to deal with applications, and decide on the amount of grant without reference to the Ministry.

The Minister urges Councils to do all in their power to popularise the scheme, and to encourage applications in all suitable cases.

There is no doubt that there are a number of sub-standard houses which can be brought up to a reasonable standard of repair and amenity, at the same time preventing their further deterioration into slums, by the implementation of the improvement grant provisions. The cost to the Council and to the national exchequer is a fraction of the cost of providing new dwellings, and once a grant has been made and the dwelling improved, the cost of maintenance falls upon the private owner, and not on the authority as is the case with the Council houses.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

W.L. BOOY

HOUSING

1)	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	15
2)	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	14
3)	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	...	...	...(a)	4
				...(b)	2
4)	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	...	...	...	12
5)	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	...	...	0
6)	The number of demolition or closing orders made	...			0
7)	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11, Housing Act 1936	...			2
	Housing Act 1954	...			0
8)	The number of houses demolished	...		...	3
	(N.B. These were purchased by Council, and the tenants rehoused.)				

HOUSING LEGISLATION

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, came into operation on the 30th. August. So far as the district is concerned, there are very few houses which will warrant demolition. The increasing cost of building has rendered economic the renovation of almost any structure, which does not form part of a cramped terrace. As most of the smaller cottages are situated in small batches, with good-sized gardens, many have been thoroughly overhauled in recent years.

The Improvement Grant provisions of the new Act will prove very useful in aiding the renovation of more suitable properties of this type. Interest in this part of the Act had become quite marked by the end of the year.

Two Improvement Grants were made during the year, with a much larger number of projects in the early stages - from enquiry to the obtaining of tenders.

There were few enquiries from tenants concerning rent increases, and no applications for "certificates of disrepair" were received. This was largely expected in view of the relatively small number of tenanted houses in the area.

Rehousing

No Council Houses were completed during 1954, although by the end of the year a block of 12 two-bedroom flats was nearing completion. These flats were built after an analysis of the Council's lists had shown that the majority of the remaining applicants had small families, suited to this type of accommodation. Arrangements were made towards the end of the year to erect a further 36 flats of a similar type.

The whole of the Council's accommodation until last year consisted of 3 bedroom houses. With the buildings of smaller dwellings, the Council's accommodation will become more balanced, enabling more families to be housed according to their requirements. The possibility of making more use of some of these houses by transferring their elderly occupiers to "oldpeople's bungalows or flats", was considered and arrangements were made for the erection of a small number of one-room flats, as an experiment.

FOOD PREMISES & FOOD HYGIENE

Regular visits were made to food shops and similar premises to ensure compliance with the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. The number of premises registered under Section 14 are :-

Registered for the sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	14
Registered for manufacture of sausages and preserved food	...	...	...	2

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Meat rationing came to an end in July 1954, and the resumption of private slaughtering after many years of Government control took place.

Throughout the period of control the Cheltenham Abattoir had been the centralised slaughterhouse for a wide area, including Charlton Kings. The Council were satisfied that the facilities offered at this establishment would be quite adequate after de-control, and accordingly passed a resolution under the new Act to prevent the opening of private slaughterhouses within the area. The arrangements have worked well, and the Cheltenham Abattoir has proved quite capable of meeting the increased demand.

The advantages of a 100% inspection by specialised sanitary inspectors in a centralised establishment of this kind are self evident.

Food Condemned.

The amount of unfit food surrendered fell considerably, as restrictions on the retail food trade were loosened.

The following is a list of the food condemned during the period :-

Carcase meat	60 lbs.
Tinned meat	13½ lbs.
Ham	14 lbs
Margarine	6½ lbs
Sundry tinned goods	3

Milk Supplies

For the most part milk is retailed by suppliers operating from adjoining districts. The district was included in a "Specified Area" from the 1st. October 1954. The change brought few difficulties since the majority of milk sold for some years had been bottled.

Two of the smaller dairymen made arrangements to obtain their milk ready bottled, whilst one producer-retailer had to suspend retail sales pending the raising of the herd to T.T. standard.

The position now is that there are no premises registered as dairies within the district, whilst the number of distributors is 8.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The demand for sites for moveable dwellings again showed no marked increase. The number of licensed caravans remained more or less static, at around 10, mostly on individual sites.

It is to be regretted that licencing should remain unnecessarily complicated, with the overlapping interests of the Sanitary Authority on the one hand, and the Town Planning Authority on the other.

FACTORIES ACT 1937

The number of factories on the register is 22. With few exceptions all are small concerns employing only one or two workers.

The majority were visited during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's scheme introduced in April 1951, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, continued to operate successfully.

The following is a summary of the annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the period March 1954 - March 1955.

No. of properties inspected :-

a) Upon Complaint	...	...	...	67
b) By Survey	...	...	...	710

No. of properties found to be infested :-

a) By rats	...	...	...	75
b) By mice	...	...	...	65

The incidence of rats and mice has steadily decreased during the last two to three years, as a result of the active measures taken. This general clearance of rats in the area was emphasised by the results of the last sewer treatment, which showed that only 7½% of the manholes were infested, whilst the initial treatment in 1952 showed some 73% to be infested.

